



By the King.

A Proclamation touching the Surueying of the  
Seacoales of Newcastle, Sunderland, and Blythe.



As much as the Commoditie of Seacoales of Newcastle vpon Tyne, Sunderland, and Blythe, within Our County of Northumberland, and Our County Palatine of Duresme, and the places thereunto adioyning, is a merchandize so vlesfull, as well in respect of the decay of wood already much wasted within this Our Realme of England, as also in respect of the transporting of them into forreigne parts to the aduancement of the Trade of this Kingdome, by the native commodity thereof, as that we haue thought it a matter well worthy Our speciall care, and much importing the state and welfare of this Our Common Wealth, to vphold and maintaine the reputation and value of the same:

And whereas vpon Information and Complaint made vnto Us heretofore, of the many and great deceits, and abuses, done and offered vnto Us, and Our louing Subjects of this Our Realme of England by the Oastmen, Diggers, Getters, and Traders for Coale in the Coalemines of Newcastle, Sunderland, and Blythe aforesaid, and in all other places thereabouts, where the said Coales are digged and gotten, who in stead of good and merchantable Coales, send and bring vnto Our citie of London, and other parts of this Our Realme of England, and elsewhere, much Blacke earth, Drosse, Slate, and other vnmmerchantable stufte, which ariseth in, and about the said Coale-pittes, and is blacke like Coales, but not fit to burne, or fusible, and which the Oastmen, Diggers and Traders in Coales, doe well knowe, and yet doe purposely and voluntarily mingle the said deceitfull Blacke earth, Slate, Stone, and other vnfuelable stufte amongst their good Coales, and sell and vtter the same for good and merchantable Coales, to the enriching of themselves, the preiudice of the Common-wealth, and the disgrace, and discredite of the said commodity in forreigne parts:

Wee thereupon taking into Our princely care and consideration, the qualitie of these abuses, and the consequences thereof, and much desiring a reformation of the same, yet Our care was that the said abuses informed of, might first evidently appeare to bee such indeede, as they were alleadged to be, and the Offendors and their manner of offending discovered thereby, the better to finde out a remedy to preuent the like inconueniences, and to that end wee did referre the examination of the same, first vnto some of Our Counsell learned in the Law at that time, who made certificate





thereof unto Us, and afterwards the Lords, and others of Our Private Councell, vpon Petition exhibited unto them by the Traders, and Laders of Seacoales at Newcastle, did take consideration of the same, and did order and appoint a tryall thereof, to bee had by a legall proceeding in Our high Court of Starre-chamber; vpon which triall, as also by the certificate aforesaid, it did then appeare, That there were, and are severall sorts of Coales, at, or neere Newcastle, some of tenne and eleuen shillings the great Chaldron, which are good and fuelable, and some of foure or five shillings the chaldron, which are drossie, and unfuelable, fit onely for Salt-pannes, and Lime kilnes. And that albeit there are sufficient store of good Coales to serue the Realme of England, and forreigne vent, without any mixture of the bad, yet nevertheless the Oastmen, and Traders for Coales at Newcastle, (claiming a speciall Priviledge to sell them to the Shippers) haue vsed voluntarily to mingle the good Coales with the bad and drossie Coales, and to sell them so mingled together at the highest prices of tenne and eleuen shillings the chaldron, warranting them all to bee of the best Coales, by this meanes gaining almost halfe in halfe, which said voluntary mingling, and corrupting of Coales, Our said Court of Starre-chamber found to be a great and generall abuse and enormity to Our whole Realme, and very meete to be suppressed, reformed and punished. And did then decree, that the offenders, then the Defendants, should be committed to the Fleete, and fynyed twenty pounds a piece.

And to the end that others might take notice, how far Our said Court did mislike, & condemne the said fraud and deceit, and their resolution to punish the same, The said Court thought fit, and so ordered, that the said Decree should bee publicquely read in open market, in the towne of Newcastle, where the said offence had beene committed, on two Market dayes, when most people were assembled, for the more publique declaration thereof to the Countrey, as by the said Decree more at large appeareth.

And whereas, notwithstanding that exemplary punishment, inflicted by Our said Court of Starre-chamber, as aforesaid, and the publique manifestation thereof, before declared, Our desire for a due reformation of the abuses before mentioned, did not take that effect which wee expected, but the deceits, and abuses aforesaid, did rather more and more increase, in so much as the Masters, Wardens, Assistants, and companies of Wood-mongers, Brewers, Chaundlers, and other Traders in London for Newcastle-Coales, became petitioners unto Us, craving Our gracious fauour and assistance for the due reformation thereof, whereupon, and vpon consideration againe thereof had, by severall committees from the Lords, and others of Our Private Councell, at severall times, vpon severall petitions exhibited, as well by the Wood-mongers, Brewers, Chaundlers, and Traders for Coales in London, and other Porte Townes within this Our Realme of England, as also by the Shippers Masters, & Owners of Ships, trading for Coales from Newcastle as aforesaid, and vpon survey, and examination of the true state of those Coale mines, and Coale-pits, by their Lordships speciall directions had, and taken, it appeared, and was found, that the abuses and deceits aforesaid, (notwithstanding the pretences to the contrary) did yet continue, and that there was no meanes so probable for reformation of the same, as the vigilant care and paines of faithfull and industrious persons, to be employed and attendant at the Coale-pits, and wharves of Newcastle, and other places adiacent, and they to be furnished with absolute authority from Us, for the prohibiting, and preventing of the deceitfull mixture of Coales, by the Oastmen and others, and to make certificates of the goodnesse, or badnesse of Coales, for the buyers direction, and avoiding of deceits therein not discernable by the eye; And the said Lords, and others of Our Private Councell, did humbly propose unto Us, diuers limitations, orders, and provisions, which they conceived fit and obseruable in the execution of the same. Wee therefore hauing well considered, and





approoued of the propositions, and prouisions before mentioned, and of the great care, and extraordinary charge vled in the discouery of the abuses aforesaid, and of prouiding, propounding, and setting a fit and apt meanes for the reformation thereof, haue graciously beene pleased, not onely to reuoke all former Letters Patents, by Us made for that purpose, (they in some particulars being found to bee defective,) but by other Our Letters Patents vnder Our great Seale of England, bearing date the twentieth day of September, in the one and twentieth yeere of Our Reigne of England, France and Ireland, and of Scotland the seuen and fiftieth, haue for Us, Our Heires and successours, straitly ordained, established, charged and prohibited, that thereafter none of the said low prized Coales, called Panne coales, nor Drosse, blacke Earth, or other vnnmerchantable stufte whatsoeuer, shall by any of the said Dastmen, Owners, and Diggers of the said Newcastle Coales, or by any other person or persons whatsoeuer, be mingled, mixed, or put amongst good and merchantable Coales, nor shall at any time, or times hereafter, being so mingled, be brought, or transported into any the Ports, or places of this Our Realme of England, or transported into any the parts beyond the Seas, vpon paine of Our high displeasure, and other the penalties therein contained.

And for the better obseruation and performance of Our Will and pleasure in the same, we haue in, and by Our said Letters Patents, made, ordained, appointed, constituted, and erected an office to haue perpetuall continuance, which for euer hereafter shall be, and shall be called the office of Surueyours of Coales to be shipped at Newcastle, Sunderland, and Blythe, or any of them, or at any other places adiacent, to be brought and transported to Our citie of London, or other places of this Our Kingdome of England, or any the parts beyond the Seas; which said office, we, of Our especiall Grace, certaine knowledge, and meere motion, and at the request and nomination of Our late right trustie and right welbeloued Cousen and Counsellour, Lodowicke Duke of Richmond and Lenox, since deceased, haue by Our said Letters Patents graunted vnto Our trusty and welbeloued Sir Robert Sharpeigh Knight, and Alexander Haitely Esquire, to hold to them and their Assignes, for the space of one and twentie yeeres, with such Fees and Allowances, and such Cautions, Directions, Limitations, and Prouisions for the execution thereof, as by the said Lords, and others of Our priue Councell haue beene thought fit and aduised, as in, and by the said Letters Patents more at large may appeare.

Now, to the end Our louing Subjects may perceiue with what care and caution Our selfe and Our priue Councell, haue proceeded in this businesse for the welfare of Our people, and the prevention of all future inconuenience that may arise in a businesse of this nature, and to the end such as haue heretofore beene Delinquents in the premisses, may hereby take notice of Our pleasure, and not plead their ignorance, as an excuse for their misdemeanour; we haue thought fit hereby to make manifest and declare such speciall and necessary obseruations and directions, tending to the reformation aforesaid, and contained in Our said Letters Patents, as are most meet to be published, and of necessitie to be obserued in the performance of the same; And doe therefore signifie and declare Our Will and pleasure to be, and we doe hereby straitly charge, prohibite and command, aswell all and euery the said Dastmen, and all others trading for Seacoales at Newcastle, Sunderland and Blythe aforesaid, and the places adiacent, or working thereon, or imployed in or about the same, as also all and euery the Masters and Owners of any Shippes, Boats, Hoyes, Crayer or other vessels imployed for the conueying, transporting, or bringing the said Seacoales vnto Our said citie of London, or vnto any other Ports or places of this Our realme of England, or into any the parts beyond the Seas, That they, or any of them presume not to endeauour or attempt at any time or times hereafter, directly or indirectly by any practise or deuise whatsoeuer, to mingle or mixe





any of the said low prised and unfuellable Coales, Drosse, Slate, Blakke-earth, or other unmer-  
chantable Coales, not well picked or wealled, amongst, or with any the said good, pure and fuel-  
able Coales, neither shall buy, lade, or freight into any their Ships, Boats, or other vessels any  
of the said drossy, and unmerchantable Coales, as aforesaid, mingled with the said good and mer-  
chantable Coales; Nor shall at any time or times hereafter convey or transport any of the said  
base and unmerchantable Coales in any ship or other vessel whatsoever, in which the said good  
and merchantable Coales are conveyed or transported, nor together with the said good Coales,  
And that no Woodmongers, Wharfingers, merchants, or other traders in Coales whatsoever, shall  
at any time or times hereafter, lay or cause to be laid any of the said baser sort of Coales upon one  
and the selfe same Wharffe, together with the said good Coales.

And further, that none of the said Masters or Owners of Ships or other vessels, shall trans-  
port or convey any such mingled Coales, or any other Coales, of what nature or qualitie soever,  
without Certificate from the Officer or Officers of Us, Our Heires and Successors appointed  
for the surveying of Seacoales, as aforesaid, their Deputie or Deputies, under the Seale of  
their said Office, testifying the goodnesse, qualitie, or badnesse of his and their Coales, and the quan-  
tity thereof first had and obtained; And that no Woodmonger, Wharfinger, merchant, or trader in  
Seacoales in Our said citie of London, or in any other place or places whatsoever, within this Our  
realme of England, shall at any time or times hereafter, presume or goe about to buy or take any  
Coales of any Shipper, Owner or Master of any Ship, or other vessel whatsoever, that shall not  
shew and produce such certificate, as aforesaid, upon paine of Our high displeasure, and such other  
paines, penalties and imprisonments, as by the Lawes and Statutes of this Our realme of Eng-  
land, or by Our prerogative Royall, can or may be inflicted upon them for their disobedience and  
contempt of Our Royall commandement in this behalfe.

And wee will, and Our pleasure is, that for the more certaine prevention of the abuses aforesaid,  
All and every the Mastmen, Fitters, and Coale-owners, Staithes-men, Merchants for  
Coales, and all and singular Masters and Owners of Shippes or other vessels, when they or any  
of them shall agree or contract together for any Coales to be conveyed or transported, as aforesaid,  
that they and every of them, by themselves, their servants, deputies or agents, shall from time to  
time deliver, or cause to be delivered unto the said officer or officers of Us, Our Heires and Successors  
or his or their deputie, or deputies for the time being, true notes and tickets in writing, testifying  
the sortes and quantities of all such Coales, as from time to time they shall contract for, and from  
what Staithes they shall be served and sent aboard, before the lading and clearing of the same, in  
such sort and manner, as by Our Letters Patents before recited is directed and set downe.

And whereas, in and by Our Letters Patents aforesaid, and upon the offer of the Woodmongers,  
Brewers and other Traders for Coales in Our citie of London, and by the advise of Our said  
Prinie Councell, wee have granted a Fee of foure pence upon every great chaldron of Coales  
to be conveyed and transported, as aforesaid, (those that are to be transported beyond the Seas by  
strangers only excepted) to be paid unto the officer or officers of Us, Our Heires and Successors  
for surveying of Seacoales, for their paines and charges in surveying of them, and making certifi-  
cates, and keeping Registers concerning the same; Our pleasure is, that all and every Masters  
and Owners of Ships or other vessels, shall from time to time, upon their receiving of their Cer-  
tificates aforesaid, pay or cause to be paid unto the said Officer or Officers of Us, Our Heires or Suc-  
cessors, their Deputies or Assignes the said Fee of foure pence for every great chaldron of Coales,  
by them to be conveyed or transported, as aforesaid.

And that the said Woodmongers, Wharfingers, common Brewers, Dyers, Chaundlers, and  
others buying Coales from the Shippes, or other vessels, and selling the same againe in grosse,





or by retaile, shall well and duely answer, and pay vnto the sayd Shipper, Master, or Owner of any Shippe, or other vessell producing such certificate, the said Fee, or Allowance of foure pence vpon euery great Chaldron of Coales, by him or them payd vnto our sayd Officer or Officers, as aforesaid, without inhauling the prices of the said Coales vnto our louing Subjects, that shall buy them againe for their priuate vse and expence, according to the aduice and order of the Lords, and others of our Priny Counsell therein.

And our further Will and pleasure is, and wee doe hereby straitly charge and command the said Sir Robert Sharpeigh, and Alexander Haiteley, vnto whom wee haue granted the said Office of Surueyours of the Seacoales, as aforesaid, That they, the said Sir Robert Sharpeigh, and Alexander Haiteley, their Executors, Administrators, and Assignes, by themselves or their sufficient deputies or seruants, doe, & shall from time to time, during the said terme in our said Letters Patents to them therof made, contained, faithfully, industriously, and carefully endeavour to see our Will and pleasure in the premisses strictly & duely performed & obserued; And to make true certificates, from time to time, of the quality and quantity of the said Coales, for the prevention of the abuses aforesaid, according to our particular directions in our Letters Patents aforesaid to them given. And if at any time or times it shall happen, that the sayd Surueyours or Surueyours, their deputie or deputies, shall wittingly and willingly make any false certificate, and it be found at any Shippe or other vessell, that the said Coales are contrary to such certificate, corrupted and mingled, and not such in truth, as they are certified to be; Then our pleasure is, That the said Surueyours, their Executors, Administrators or Assignes, so wittingly and willingly falsifying the trust wee haue reposed in them, shall make sufficient restitution and satisfaction vnto such Merchant, Wood-monger, Wharfinger, and other Traders in Coales, for the Losse and Damage that he or they shall sustaine thereby.

And lastly, wee doe hereby Will and command all and singuler Maiors, Iustices of Peace, Customers, Comptrollers, Searchers, Waiters, Baylifes, Constables, Officers, and Ministers of Us, our Heires and Successours, to whom it shall, or may appertain, that they, and euery of them, be from time to time, aiding and assisting vnto the said Sir Robert Sharpeigh, and Alexander Haiteley, their Executors, Administrators, Deputies and Assignes, & to all other the Officers of Us, our Heires and Successours in this behalfe, in all lawfull manner, for the due execution of our seruice herein, according to our pleasure herein signified.

And that they, and euery of them, doe from time to time, cause diligent suruey, and inquiry to be made within their severall precincts, limits, and iurisdiccions, of all offenders in this behalfe, and together with our said Officer, or Officers, to make speedy certificate of their names without partiality, or conniueance vnto the Lords and others of our Priny Counsell, or to our Attourney generall for the time being, that they may be proceeded against in our Court of Starre-chamber, or otherwise, according to their demerites. And our Will and pleasure is, That aswell the said Lords, and others of our Priny Counsell, as our Attourney generall for the time being, vse all care and diligence, to punish with severity, aswell the partiality, negligence, and remissnesse of the said Maiors, Iustices of Peace, Surueyours of Coales, and other Officers aforesaid, in not making due suruey, or certificate, as aforesaid, as the contemptuous behaviour of such, as shall presume to violate this our Proclamation, or the Letters Patents before recited.

Given at our Court at New-market the sixteenth day of February, in the two and twentieth yeere of our Reigne of England, France and Ireland, and of Scotland the eight and fiftieth.

God saue the King.

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